

30 *Möng Mow to Manwaing and Bhamo*

712 Government, the amount being deducted from the soldiers' pay. There were small forts garrisoned by these men all along the road from Manwaing to Nampaung.

262 The traders of Manwaing asked us to dinner one day, and the next evening we dined with Colonels Liu and Wang in the fort. Some of their dishes, such as birds' nest soup, are excellent; others are very much the reverse, pigs' insides often forming part of the menu.

524 Neither of the colonels was at all averse to drinking, and after dinner they played a game which consists in two players sitting opposite each other and simultaneously shooting out one or more fingers of one hand, at the same time shouting out a number. The player who shouts out correctly the total number of fingers shown by the two players wins, and the loser has to drink a glass of rice spirit as a forfeit. The game is, I believe, practically the same as the *mora* of the Italians.

• 682 On the 22nd January we set out westward for Bhamo, passing, about two miles out of Manwaing, the place where Margary of the Chinese Consular Service was murdered in 1875. He had just made a journey through from Shanghai to Bhamo and had gone back to Manwaing to make arrangements for Colonel Browne's expedition, which was just leaving Bhamo for T'êng-yüeh (Momiën). While he was alone at Manwaing, when the main expedition was still on its way there, he was assassinated. Whoever the actual murderers may have been, there is little doubt that the deed was done by order of the Viceroy of Yün-nan.

In nine cases out of ten when Europeans are killed in China, the officials, if not the direct instigators, are really responsible for the murder, and could have stopped it if they had liked. The natives of a district very soon find out if their official is anti-foreign, and those who have the same leanings feel that they can act with safety. If every murder was followed by the decapitation of the official in whose district it took place, murders would cease. At present killing an Englishman is apt to prove a safe and agreeable pastime for evil-disposed Chinamen.

After three miles of flat going we began to climb the Kachin Hills and camped at 4,900 feet at the fort of Sare the headquarters of Colonel Wang, who commanded the Trade Protection Levy.